

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 15, 26 and 27 are amended and claims 2-24 and 16-25 are original.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2-3, 6-10, 15 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki et al (US Pub. No. 200210032876) in view of BMW2001 (BWM Owner's Manual for Vehicle. Part No. 01410156416, Oct-2001, page 22, Steering Wheel with Multifunction buttons) further in view of Stulberger (US Pub No. 2003/0064748).

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 14, 16 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki, BMW2001 and Stulberger further in view of Chen (US Patent No. 6411823).

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 11-12, 17, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki, BMW2001 and Stulberger and further in view of Eiche (US Publication No. 2002/0137505).

The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki, BMW2001 and Stulberger in view of Eiche (US Publication No. 200210137505) and further in view of Ju (US Publication No. 2005/0015516).

The Examiner rejected claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki, BMW2001 and Stulberger and further in view of Kashiwamura (US Publication No. 2002/0016188).

MPEP §706.02(j) states:

"To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. In re Vacck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)."

MPEP §2143.01 provides: The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. In re Mills, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

One court further noted that there were three possible sources for such motivation, namely "(1) the nature of the problem to be solved; (2) the teachings of the prior art; and (3) the knowledge of persons of ordinary skill in the art." *Id.* at 1357, 47 USPQ2d at 1458. Here, according to this court, the Board had relied simply upon "the high level of skill in the art to provide the necessary motivation," without explaining what specific understanding or technological principle within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art would have suggested the combination.

Applicant hereby refers to and incorporates the previous arguments in support of patentability.

As previously explained application of §103 presumes the existence of differences between the subject matter claimed and the teachings of any particular prior art reference. Otherwise a rejection under §102 would have sufficed. Thus, the examiner must propose some modification of a particular reference or a combination thereof with another reference in order to arrive at the claimed invention.

When patentability turns on the question of obviousness, the search for and analysis of the prior art includes evidence relevant to the finding of whether there is a teaching, motivation, or suggestion to select and combine the references relied on as evidence of obviousness.

There must be some logical reason apparent from the evidence of record that would justify a combination or modification of references. In determining whether one of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to modify or combine references, the teachings of the references, taken with the knowledge that a worker in the art already possesses, constitute the scope and content of the prior art. Thus, the question raised under §103 is whether the prior art taken as a whole would suggest the claimed invention taken as a whole to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, even if all elements of a claim are disclosed in various prior art references, the claimed invention taken as a whole cannot be said to be obvious without some reason given in the prior art why one of ordinary skill would have been prompted to combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the claimed invention. Furthermore, when a § 103 rejection is based upon a modification of a reference that destroys the intent, purpose or function of the invention

disclosed in the reference, such a proposed modification is not proper and the prima facie case of obviousness cannot be properly made.

In the rejection of the claims of the present application the Examiner attempted to combine a large number of references. Even if, as the Examiner holds, that all of these references are in the same field of endeavor, it is not believe that the Examiner has sufficiently set forth a showing that the resulting combination of these references does not require modifications of the references that destroys the intent, purpose or function of the respective inventions disclosed in the references. It is further believed that only with hindsight would the Examiner attempt to combine the four references.

In general there are four concepts to be considered concerning obviousness.

First, MPEP §2143.01 provides the following. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Second, if a prior art reference requires some modification in order to meet the claimed invention or requires some modification in order to be properly combined with another reference and such a modification destroys the purpose or function of the invention disclosed in the reference, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found a reason to make the claimed modification. Thus, the CCPA had and the Federal Circuit has consistently held that when a

§103 rejection is based upon a modification of a reference that destroys the intent, purpose or function of the invention disclosed in the reference, such a proposed modification is not proper and the prima facie case of obviousness cannot be properly made.

Third, the Federal Circuit requires that some reason or suggestion must be found in the prior art or other evidence of record that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to produce the claimed invention in order to properly establish a prima facie case of obviousness. The CCPA explained how it would evaluate a prima facie case of obviousness in *In re Clinton*, 527 F.2d 1226, 188 USPQ 365 (CCPA 1976). First, the court looked at the references to determine whether "the references by themselves... suggest doing what appellants have done." The court next considered whether a person of ordinary skill in the art would have had a sufficient basis for the required expectation of success. Thus the court held that: Obviousness does not require absolute predictability, but a reasonable expectation of success is necessary. Accordingly, in going from the prior art to the claimed invention, one cannot base obviousness upon what a person skilled in the art might try or might find obvious to try but rather must consider what the prior art would have led a person skilled in the art to do. Thus, to say it may be obvious to try a certain modification is clearly not the test for obviousness.

Fourth, the Supreme Court held, in *U.S. v. Adams*, 383 U.S. 39, 148 USPQ 479 (1966), that one important indicium of nonobviousness is "teaching away" from the claimed invention by the prior art or by experts in the art at (or after) the time the invention was made. Teaching away is the antithesis of art suggesting that the person of ordinary skill go in the claimed direction. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed Cir. 1988). MPEP §2145 X.D.2., provides

specifically for this: "It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. *In re Grasselli*, 713 F.2d 731, 743, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983)."

Okugaki et al in paragraph 22 of the Patent Publication states: "The automotive information system of the invention also permits hand-free telephone conversation. To this end, the present invention provides an automotive system comprising a main unit, a wireless telephone unit connected to the main unit, a speaker, and a microphone; wherein the wireless telephone unit includes: means for detecting receipt of a telephone call; and means for sending a start signal to the main unit upon detection of the receipt of the telephone call; wherein the main unit includes: means for detecting the start signal; means for turning on power supply to the main unit in response to the start signal; means for informing a user of the receipt of the telephone call when the power supply to the main unit is turned on in response to the start signal received from the wireless telephone unit; means for detecting a responding operation of the user for responding to the telephone call; and means for sending, when the responding operation is detected, connecting instruction to the wireless telephone unit to request the wireless telephone unit to connect the telephone call to the main unit; wherein the wireless telephone unit further includes: means for detecting the connecting instruction; and means responsive to the connecting instruction, for connecting the telephone call to the main unit; and wherein the main unit further includes means for enabling the user to communicate with the telephone caller by means of the speaker and the microphone." However, the term "wireless" refers to the telephone unit being able to transmit and receive, and not that it is a mobile terminal separate and independent of the vehicle.

BMW2001, is only cited as teaching a switch (1, 2) in a multifunction steering wheel that allows users to operate the phone quickly with both hands on the wheel.

Stulberger is only cited as teaching a microphone to be placed in the center of the steering wheel ([0039, 0098, 0121], microphone 48), and that a wireless telephone which can be any standard cell phone ([0136], 84 in Fig. 19) being used with the hands-free system integrated with a car.

On page 8 of the specification as originally filed, the specification teaches the following: "The integrated hands free mobile system module 200 may also have a display 220, which may display information, such as, phone numbers with corresponding names and addresses, information downloaded from the mobile terminal, etc."

Also on page 8 of the specification as originally filed, the specification teaches the following: "The PC serial port connector 230 may interface the processing module 232 to a personal computer (PC) 236 or other processing device. Fig. 2B depicts the processing module 232 in more detail. The personal computer 236 may have a phone directory 238, and the processing module 232 may have a phone directory 240 (Fig. 2B).

Furthermore, the personal computer 236 may have a synchronization program 242, and the processing module 232 may have a synchronization program 244. The synchronization program 244 (Fig. 2B) in the processing module 232 is updateable with the synchronization program 242 in the personal computer 236 via the PC serial port connector 230.

The phone directory 240 in the processing module 232 is synchronizable with the phone directory 238 in the personal computer 236 via the PC serial port connector 230 using the

synchronization program 244 in the processing module 232 and synchronization program 242 in the personal computer 236."

The independent claims have been amended to include the feature: "wherein the processing module is connectable to a personal computer, and wherein predetermined information is downloaded from each of the wireless mobile terminal and the processing module." Such feature in combination with the other elements in the independent claims is not taught by any of the cited prior art references taken singly or in combination.

Furthermore, the independent claims 1, 15, 26 and 27 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. In particular the following has been added to the independent claims:

wherein the processing module is connectable to a personal computer, and wherein predetermined information is downloaded to the processing module from each of the wireless mobile terminal and the processing module.

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims upon which they depend. It has been shown that each of the independent claims, as amended, are not anticipated or obvious in view of any of the cited prior art taken singly or in combination. Therefore, these dependent claims are also allowable over the cited art.

The prima facie case of obviousness determination has not been made out. Thus, the opinion of obviousness is deficient and the Applicants are deserving of a patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, taken singly or in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the combination of the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. Applicants have discussed herein one or more differences between the cited prior art, and the claimed invention with reference to one or

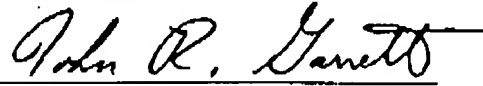
more parts of the cited prior art. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of cited prior art correspond to the claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested. In view of the above remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered to be of general interest only. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If an additional telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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